

Muse No. 10

Japanese Network of Museums for Peace

Newsletter: December, 2003

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Ritsumeikan University**

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The 3rd Conference of Japanese Network of Museums for Peace

The 3rd conference was held on November 15 and 16 at Kyoto Museum for World Peace. There were 42 participants. Eleven people presented their papers as follows:

1. "Creating Women's War and Peace Museum" by Ms Eriko Ikeda
2. "Ten-year history of Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University and its Renewal" by Professor Hideki Okada
3. "Exhibition on War at History Museum" by Mario Yajima from the House of Sharing in Korea
4. "War Exhibitions at History Museum" by Mr. Nobuaki Terabayashi of Hokkaido Pioneer Memorial
5. "War Museum related to Self Defense

- Forces" by Professor Morio Minami
6. "A Project commemorating the 50th year of the Hydrogen Bomb Test in the Bikini Atoll and the 5th Lucky Dragon" by Mr. Kazuya Yasuda of the 5th Lucky Dragon Display House
7. "The Present Situation of the International Network of Peace Museums and Challenges" by Kazuyo Yamane of the Grassroots House



8. "Invasion, Resistance and Common Concept of History in Asia" by Kim Yeong Hwan of the Grassroots House
9. "Peace Museum as a Peace Study Center" by Professor Hideo Fujita of the 5th Lucky Dragon Display House
10. "What I learned at Peace Museums in Europe" by Chikako Hanaoka of the Pacific War History Museum
11. "Criticizing Pre-War Situation where Human Rights were ignored and Human Life was disregarded by investigating corpses of dead soldiers" by Mr. Nobuteru Iwabuchi of the Pacific War History Museum

This conference was held independently for the first time. It used to be held at the conference of Peace Studies Association of Japan for example. There were discussions such as what to do with children when exhibits are cruel, what to do with exhibits on Japan's aggression, how to criticize war exhibits by Self Defense Forces etc.

People from other peace museums talked about their activities briefly: Himeji Peace Museum, Osaka International Peace Center, Tanba Manganese Memorial, Tokyo Document Center on Air Raids and War Damages and Maruki Art Gallery.

As for the next year, Kyoto Museum for World Peace will play a role of the

Secretariat of the Japanese Network of Museums for Peace. *Muse* newsletter will be edited mainly by Kazuyo Yamane twice a year in Japanese and also in English.

The next conference will be held in Tokyo on November 27th and 28th with the help of the members of Tokyo Document Center on Air Raids and War Damages and the 5th Lucky Dragon Display House.

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My Impressions of Attending the Conference dreaming of Creating a Peace Museum

By Eriko Ikeda: the President of the Committee of Creating Women's War/Peace Museum

First of all, I'd like to express my gratitude for inviting me to the conference. Yayori Matsui made a plan of making a war/peace museum where all the materials on women who were forced to work as sexual slaves would be available. But she passed away about one year ago and we made the committee for creating the peace museum only about six months ago.

We've been busy asking for donations, sorting out materials, preserving them and thinking what kind of peace museum to make. We'd like to visit other war museums and peace museums not only in

Japan but also in other countries. It was stimulating and helpful to be able to listen to the people who have been working for museums for peace that we'd like to visit.

The impressive opinion in the discussion was "The movement against the war on Iraq spread in the world, but what role did Japanese peace museums play?" We'd like to make our museum the one for protecting women's rights and also the center of anti-war activities for peace.

As for war museums in Self Defense Forces in various places in Japan, I agree on the report that "There is no comment on Japan's aggression and her victim side. Nationalism is emphasized, but there is no reference to war." When we visited Yushukan Museum, it reminded me of the report. Japan's aggression is not dealt with at the national war museum and this is related to the present situation of Japan that is changing to a nation which can start war.

There was one more impressive opinion that made me think what to do at our future museum. It is possible for children to be deeply hurt psychologically when they see exhibits that show reality of war. It was said that there was a tendency not to make exhibits too realistic. When we visited war museum in Germany this summer, they were

wondering what to do with women's sexual violence for young people. This is a serious problem for us because we'd like to make a peace museum on women in war and conflicts.

We have recorded testimonies of Asian women who were forced to work as sexual slaves for Japanese army and also former Japanese soldiers who raped women. This was done when we helped the women and also worked hard to open the Women's International Crimes Tribunal for the Trial of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery in Tokyo in 2000. We'd like to make a good archive of oral history. Some people asked us to share the record through the Internet, and said to us, "I'd like to know how to preserve the tape recording and present it". Thanks to the technological innovation, digital recording makes it possible to preserve materials in good conditions. It would be nice to think these issues together from now on.



Prof. Okada, Prof. Anzai, Mr. Yamabe, Prof. Fujioka and Mr. Kaji from the left

The Present Situation of Japanese Museums: No Pursuit of the History of International Relations in War

By Nobuaki Terabayashi of Hokkaido Pioneer Memorial

I presented a paper on a questionnaire entitled “War Exhibits in History Museums in Japan” conducted in 2002. The purpose was to investigate exhibits on war after Meiji period(1867-1911) in history, activities and how to deal with the history of international relations. It was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science and a grant was offered. There were five curators from Hokkaido Pioneer Memorial, Sendai City History and Ethnic Museum, Osaka Human Rights Museum, Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University.

The questionnaire was done to prepare for the real investigation that will be done in 2003 to 2004. The following is my personal opinion, not the one by other people because we had not discussed the result yet.

We sent the questionnaire to history museum, peace museums, museums for former army and navy as well as the Association of the Bereaved families and museum in Self Defense Forces Stations.

What is the result? Exhibited was Japanese People’s life during World War II and the damages caused by U.S. air-raids. There are almost no exhibits on the result of Japan’s aggression. There are no exhibits on local history which makes it possible for visitors to understand international relations during the war. Perhaps there has been no research on international relation in relation to local history.

Some Impressions at the 3rd Conference

Makoto Yamaguchi

I worked for Saitama Peace Museum for ten years and attended the conference with several aims.

There is a plan to make Sakhalin Memorial. Historically, Sakhalin doesn’t belong to Russia. Many Russians emigrated there because of Stalin’s policy. I hope that it will be a trust territory of the United Nations.



Ms Yamaguchi and Ms Ikeda

It has oil and natural gas and the USA, Britain, Russia, Canada, Sweden, Japan and so forth have been developing the project of oil and gas. How to deal with this issue is a big problem.

I was glad to know about the women's peace/war museum project because gender issues and war will be finally dealt with there. Oral history is very important and how to exhibit it at peace museums is a big issue.

Professor Minami's report on war museums in Self Defense Forces Stations made us think various questions such as how to deal with the museums for peace. His material on war memorials both in Japan and Germany is very impressive.

I was very impressed by Kyoto Museum for World Peace after I visited there. I was proud of it because it makes visitors think peace issues and study them. The guidebook is easy to understand and it is a good study material. The exhibits are very good in comparison with other peace museums.

It is about time to renew many peace museums. The conference gave us a good opportunity to think of it one another.

Peace Museums in Japan

Pacific War History Museum: Iwate

The 2nd general meeting was held on September 10 in Tokyo. Mr. Iwabuchi and Ms Hanaoka talked about the International Conference of Peace Museums in Belgium. The main activities are the investigation of war remains, exhibitions and international cooperation. We will train curators who can explain exhibits and also have a plan to open our website in the future.

(Newsletter No. 42)

Tel: 017-52-3000 Fax: 0197-52-4575

Yuki no Shita Peace Culture Museum: Fukui

The 33rd National Conference of Recording Air-raids and War Damages was held in Toyohashi City, Aichi Prefecture. According to Mr. Tadao Kato, the director of the museum, an incredible handout was distributed. It was about a war exhibition called "Another War Exhibition: Hidden History that should be taught to the next generation". The content of the exhibition was incredible because it said, "Japan did not fight a war for aggression. It was a war for self defense." Such an exhibition was held not only in Toyohashi City but also in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukui. Mr.

Kato wrote in his newsletter, “An incredible thing has started. Now is the time to see the real history with materials that support it.”

Tel & fax: 0776-52-2169

Peace Museum of Saitama

There was an exhibition on women during and after World War II from July 23 to September 15. It was about women’s life, their labor and their life after the war.

There was also an exhibition on social conditions seen in the cover of magazines from October 21 to December 7.

People visited war related sites on September 20. They visited the former weapon factory of the army in Kamifukuoka City.

There were two meetings to listen to people who experienced war. A victim of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima talked about the experience on July 19. A man who were interned in Siberia talked about his experience

A Film such as “Black Rain” on a victim of the atomic bomb was shown on July 12 and “Twelve Eyes” was shown on August 15. A film of “A Violin in a Starry Sky” was shown on September 13 and so on.

(Newsletter dated July 5)

Tel:0493-35-4111 Fax:0493-35-4112

<http://village.infoweb.ne.jp/~pms>

Maruki Art Gallery: Saitama

There was an art exhibition on holocaust from July 8 to September 6.

A photo exhibition on children in Iraq was held from September 9 to October 12. The photos were taken by Naomi Toyota during the war on Iraq.

(Newsletter No. 77 dated on July 11)

Tel:0493-22-3266 Fax:0493-24-8371

<http://www.aya.or.jp/~marukimsn>

Warabi Municipal Museum: Saitama

The 14th exhibition was “Memory in the 15th War: Ordinary Women’s Life” and it was held from August 1 to September 7.

Tel:048-432-2477

National Museum of Japanese History: Sakura City, Chiba

A report on “Real Images of Modern Soldiers” that had been researched from 1996 to 2000 was published on March 31. The study report No. 101 on “A Village and a Battlefield” was about over 7000 letters sent to a former elementary school

teacher, Minejiro Takahashi, in Kitakami City of Iwate Prefecture. The report No. 102 on “Memorial and Graves” is about the army cemetery of former Sanadayama.

Tel:043-486-0123 Fax:043-486-4209

Setagaya Peace Museum: Tokyo

There was an exhibition on the history of war and efforts for peace after the war using photos and materials from August 1 to 31.

Tel: 03-3703-8100

Toshima ward Local Museum: Tokyo

Letters from soldiers to their families were exhibited from August 6 to September 28. Exhibited were soldiers' uniforms, letters by children who were sent to the country to escape from U.S. air-raids, soldiers' letters to their families, memorandums on air-raids experiences and artifacts in devastated areas.

Tel: 03-3980-2351 Fax:03-3980-5271

The 5th Fukuryumaru of the Display House: Tokyo

The newsletter was published 301 times. In No. 301, there is an article of “Interview with Toshiko Okamoto: Taro

Okamoto and the Bikini Incident”. Taro Okamoto is a modern artist, a sculptor and a writer. He passed away when he was 84 years old. He was shocked by the atomic and hydrogen bombs and the Bikini incident and painted pictures on the 5th Lucky Dragon, a fishing boat that was exposed to radiation of the U.S. hydrogen bomb test in 1954. There is Taro Okamoto Memorial in Aoyama, Tokyo and there is an article on an interview with Ms Toshiko Okamoto, the director, in the newsletter No. 301.

Fax: 03-3521-2900

E-mail: fukuryumaru@msa.biglobe.ne.jp

Katsushika City Museum: Tokyo

There was a special exhibition on archaeology on war, air-raids and the atomic bombing from July 25 to August 10.

Tel:03-3838-1101 Fax:03-5680-0849

Fussa Local Material Hall: Tokyo

War Exhibition for Peace was held from June 28 to September 28.

Tel:0425-53-3111

Korean Museum: Tokyo

A symposium on 3.1 movement for the independence of Korea was held on March 1st. A course on the history of Korea was taught from March to July. There was an exhibition of pictures on Koreans who were killed in Kanto Earthquake eighty years ago.

Tel & fax: 03-5272-3510

E-mail: kourai@40net.jp

Kanagawa Plaza for Global Citizenship: Kanagawa

Artifacts in Nagasaki, photos on the victims of the atomic bombing and original pictures of a book called *That Day in Summer* by Hiroaki You were exhibited from August 1 to 31. They were borrowed from Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum.

Asian Pacific Photo Contest on the Joy of Sports was held from October 10 to 26. The photos won a prize at a contest held by UNESCO in 2002.

(Newsletter No. 17 dated October 1)

Tel: 045-896-2121 Fax:045-896-2945

<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/osirase/plaza>

Hiratsuka City Museum: Kanagawa

A book of *Citizens Search for the Air-raid*

on Hiratsuka No. 1 was published by the Association of Recording Air-raids and War Damages on March 15. Two more books will be published in the future.

Tel: 0463-33-5111 Fax:0463-31-3949

Association of Preserving Underground Shelter in Hiyoshidai: Kanagawa

A general meeting was held on May 17 and Emeritus Professor Takio Nagato of Keiou Gijuku University gave a lecture on Hiyoshi Campus during World War II.

One of the purposes was decided to create a peace museum in Hiyoshidai shelter.

Tel: 045-562-0443

<http://www.geocities.HeartLand-Hanami-zuki/2402>

Peace Museum Project in Matsushiro: Nagano

Professor Kouji Aikei of Shinshu University gave a lecture of "The Meaning of Peace Constitution that We Should think now" on July 21.

Parents and children visited the underground shelter on August 10. It is hoped that visitors learn the reality of war and think the importance of keeping peace according to its newsletter No. 153.

220 students of Osaka Korean High School visited the shelter. 17 Koreans who work for co-op visited the shelter. A Korean woman said, "I was afraid of homestay in Japan. But I found that the Japanese were all kind, which I'm very glad. Please come to Korea next time and enjoy homestay."

Tel & fax: 026-228-8415

E-mail: kibonoie@infoweb.ne.jp

Shizuoka Peace Museum: Shizuoka

Sixty years will have passed in 2005 after there was a U.S. air-raid on Shizuoka. We decided to ask citizens to draw pictures on the air-raids.

There are already 87 pictures on the air-raids and they are precious materials to know the reality of war that broke out in the world. They are often used at school and also for visitors of the peace museum.

Thirty-nine pictures were exhibited from June 19 to October 26.

(Newsletter No. 55)

Tel & Fax: 054-247-9641

E-mail: shizuoka-heiwa@nifty.com

Sakuragaoka Museum: Toyokawa City, Aichi

An exhibition on a weapon factory of Toyokawa Navy and an exhibition on life during the war were held from July 25 to August 31.

Tel:0533-85-3775 Fax:0533-85-3776

Ritto History Museum: Shiga

"The Foundation for Peace 2003" was exhibited from August 1 to 31. It was about school where boys were sent and trained to be soldiers. An illustrated book was published.

Tel:077-554-2733 Fax:077-554-2755

Otsu City Museum of History : Shiga

The 33rd mini exhibition of "Otsu, War and Citizens" was held from July 23 to August 31. It was about the relation of the army and Otsu town, citizens' life during the war and so forth.

Tel:077-521-2100 Fax:077-521-2666

<http://www.rekihaku.otsu.shiga.jp>

Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University: Kyoto

A Photo Exhibition on World Report was

held from October 1 to 26. The photos won a prize at a photo contest of world report in 2002 by Photos of World Report Foundation.

There was also a photo exhibition called “Do you know the time of war in Japan? A photo exhibition of Kouyou Kageyama” from October 30 to November 5. An illustrated book was published. Mr. Katsumoto Saotome, the director of Tokyo Document Center on Air Raids and War Damages, gave a lecture of “Handing down the story of war to the next generation.” Tomohiro Kagayama, the second son of Kouyou Kageyama, also gave a lecture on his father.

Photos and relics of 100 Palestinians killed by Israel were exhibited from August 15 to 31.

Osaka International Peace Center: Osaka

A new corner on the present situation in the world was opened in May. Photos and charts are used and they will be renewed every two months.

It became possible for visitors to use a computer and search for materials and books. If visitors search for materials, they will be able to find a card and a photo of the materials in the computer.

There was an exhibition on Hiroshima

and Nagasaki from July 22 to September 14. Photos, pictures and materials on the atomic bombing were exhibited.

War toys during the war were exhibited from September 25 to November 16.

There was a special exhibition by cartoonists on war, peace, love and human beings from November 25 to December 21.

Seminars for Peace in 21st Century were held by a journalist, Shouko Egawa, on September 27. Professor Asaho Mizushima of Waseda University gave a lecture on the Peace Constitution on November 22.

Mr. Takeshi Watanabe, the former director of Osaka Castle, gave a lecture on Osaka Castle and damages by the war on August 9.

Mr. Nobuteru Iwabuchi, the director of Pacific War History Museum, gave a lecture of “Learning from War Remains in New Guinea” on December 7. Several films such as “War and Youth” were shown in December.

A forum of “Peace and Human Rights: Messages from Osaka” was held on August 17 by Osaka International Peace Center, Osaka Human Rights Museum and Asia Pacific Human Rights

Information Center. Mr. Kimihide Mushanokoji, the director of Osaka International Peace Center, gave a lecture and he discussed with the directors of the three museums.

A peace concert of "Music beyond Borders" was held by Shungo Moriyama on October 12. There was also a peace concert by Hayato Fujiki on November 8. He emphasized the importance of Okinawa in Japan.

Various films for children were shown in summer.

Tel:06-6947-7208 Fax:06-6943-6080
<http://www.mydome.or.jp/peace>

Osaka Human Rights Museum: Osaka

There was an exhibition on children who were the victims of the war and also who played roles of supporting the war from July 1 to August 31.

Photos and relics of 100 Palestinians killed by Israel were exhibited from October 7 to 19.

Tel:06-6561-5891 Fax:06-6561-5995
<http://www.liberty.or.jp/>

Suita City Peace Memorial: Osaka

A photo exhibition of "Believing in the Future: Children as refugees in

Afghanistan" was held from August 19 to 31.

There are many good peace films and they are shown every month at the museum.

Tel:06-6387-2593

Sakai City Peace and Human Rights Museum: Osaka

There was a special exhibition on the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from October 30 to November 9.

Tel: 072-270-8150 Fax: 072-270-8159

Children Center for Peace & Human Rights: Sakai City of Osaka

A general meeting was held on May 11 and Ms Kazuko Yoshioka, the director of the center, made a report on the activities in 2002. Her book of *Zaiman Shoukokumin no 20 Seiki* on her life was published and since then she has been busy teaching at school.

The panels on school textbooks were used in eighty places from January, 2001 to March, 2003. The exhibition on war in school textbooks was held with her lecture at over twenty places.

(Newsletter of "Grassroots" No. 21)

Fax: 072-227-1453

Himeji City Peace Museum: Hyougo

Anti-nuclear Peace Exhibition was held from July 19 to August 31. Exhibited were citizens' pictures and photo posters on the atomic bombing, paintings and calligraphy by elementary school and junior high school students in Himeji City. A chorus contest for peace was held on August 3 and two children's choral society attended it. An atomic bomb victim talked about her experiences on August 17.

There was an exhibition on US air-raids and those who returned from Siberia and China from October 5 to December 23.

Tel:0792-91-2525 Fax:0792-91-2526

Kakimori Bunko: Itami City, Hyogo

A special exhibition of "Thinking of Life: letters with pictures from a soldier in the battlefield to his wife" was held from August 9 to September 7. Michio Maeda, an artist, sent his wife letters with drawings. The letters, sketches and so for were exhibited. The letters were donated to Kakie Library by his wife, Kinuko.

Tel:072-782-0244 Fax:072-781-9090

Itami City Museum: Hyogo

An exhibition of "War and People in Itami" was held at a corner of the permanent exhibition from July 20 to August 30.

Tel:072-783-0582 Fax:072-784-8109

<http://www.city.itami.hyogo.jp/a-hakubutsukan/html>

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum

There was an exhibition on the investigation of the atomic bombing from July 25 to December 15. Papers and photos related to the research were exhibited.

Paintings of trams that were destroyed by the atomic bomb were exhibited on August 8 and they will be displayed until the end of July, 2004. Citizens drew pictures remembering August 6th.

(Newsletter of Peace Culture No. 150 dated on September 1)

Tel:082-241-4004 Fax:082-542-7941

<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/peacesite/hpcf@pcf.city.hiroshima.jp>

Hiroshima Museum of Traditional Provincial Industry

A special exhibition on soldiers' food and clothes was held from October 4 to

November 3. An illustrated book was published. An exhibition on citizens' life during World War II was also held.

Tel:082-253-6771 Fax:082-253-6772

**Takamatsu Civic Culture Center
Peace Memorial Museum: Kagawa**

Photos and paintings on the US air-raids on Takamatsu were exhibited from July 1 to 6.

Articles, photos, weapons related to the air-raids were exhibited at Takamatsu City Hall from July 28 to August 1.

War relics and articles donated by citizens were exhibited at a Danshi community center in Takamatsu City from September 5 to 9. They are usually kept by the peace museum.

War-related articles kept by the museum were also exhibited at the culture center from November 18 to 24.

Mr. Hitoshi Takayama, an atomic bomb survivor of Hiroshima, talked about his experiences and the preciousness of life on July 4. A film called "Prophecy" was shown then.

Other peace films for children and parents were shown on November 22.

(Newsletter of July and October)

Tel: 087-833-7722 Fax:087-861-7981

<http://www.city.takamatu.kagawa.jp/kyouiku/bunkabu/sbsenter/heiwa.htm>.

Grassroots House: Kochi

100th anti-war action was done on December 7 downtown. It was started before the war on Iraq. A questionnaire was answered by citizens and over 90 % of them are against sending Self Defense Forces to Iraq to help the USA.

There were various activities such as a gathering to celebrate the publication of a book of Kou Makimura's poetry, A gathering on the 72nd anniversary of the Manchurian Incident on September 18th, a report on a workshop of East Asia and Cambodia, Peace Concert, Bio-music concert, a gathering to think of prisoners' human rights etc.

There was a gathering to celebrate the publication of Mr. Shigeo Nishimori's poetry called Hana Ibara in November.

Dr. Klaus Schlichtmann gave a speech on the origin of the Japanese constitution and its influence on November 3rd. It is very encouraging that he supports the activities of the Association of Preserving Ueki Emori's House. Ueki wrote the draft of the constitution, but his house is deteriorating and the members are trying to ask the mayor to preserve the house.

Tel: 0888-875-1275 Fax: 088-821-0586

E-mail: GRH@ma1.seikyou.ne.jp

German Museum: Tokushima

The place where Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was played in Japan for the first time was Bando Camp where German prisoners of World War I were kept. A Japanese orchestra went to Germany in June and played the music.

Precious materials that were kept by German prisoners of war for a long time were donated to German museum in Tokushima.

(Newsletter No. 7)

Fax: 088-689-0909

doitukan@city.naruto.tokushima.jp

Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

Catholic Church in Urakami, Nagasaki City was atomic bombed in 1945 and was reconstructed later. Materials on the church were exhibited from October 10 to December 17.

Tel:095-844-1231 Fax:095-846-5170

Oka Masaharu Memorial Nagasaki Peace Museum: Nagasaki

It was recognized as NPO (Nonprofit Organization) and the purpose is based on the ideas of the foundation of the

museum as follows:

“People in other countries that were invaded by Japan have been ignored without any compensation from Japan. It is because the history of Japan's aggression has been hidden for a long time. The attitude of no apology and compensation is very irresponsible and this caused the mistrust in Japan. This museum was made by citizens so that people will know Japan's aggression based on historical reality commemorating Mr. Masaharu Oka who contributed his life to charging that Japan had been irresponsible. Each citizen supports politics, society and culture though his or her power may look small. It is hoped that each visitor will know the reality of Japan's aggression and victim's pain, and he or she will work for the realization of Japan's compensation and creating peace.”

(Newsletter No.34)

Tel: 095-820-5600

Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum

An exhibition on life during World War II and Media's Control was held from October 10 to November 30. Newspaper, magazines, books and handouts during the war were exhibited, and the control of information among the people and how children were influenced were made clear.

An illustrated book was published.

Tel: 098-997-3844. Fax: 098-997-3947

<http://www.peace-musem.pref.okinawa.jp>

John Lennon Museum: Saitama

The John Lennon Museum has opened on October 9, 2000, the day when John would have celebrated his 60th birthday.

The John Lennon Museum has been formally approved by Ms. Yoko Ono, and is the first such museum in the world.

As one of the major artists of the 20th century, John Lennon affected many people, not only those involved in music but also people from every field around the world.

The John Lennon Museum was established to preserve knowledge of his works and career.

The John Lennon Museum is located in the Saitama Super Arena, a palace of music and sports and the central facility of the Saitama New Urban Center, which opened in May 2000.

You will find in the Museum a variety of musical instruments and costumes of John Lennon and various other items from the memorabilia held by Ms. Yoko Ono.

Address:

Saitama Super Arena, 8 Shintoshin,
Chuo-ku, Saitama-city, Saitama
330-9109 JAPAN

Tel: 048-601-0009 Fax: 048-601-0010

Opening Hours:

From 11:00 to 18:00

Closed On: Every Tuesday, Year-end &
New Year

Admission Fee:

Adults ¥1,500 (¥1,300), High
School/College students ¥1,000 (¥800),
Elementary/Junior High School students
¥500 (¥400) *Rates for handicapped
people, groups of 20 or more are in
parentheses.

(The above information is from the
following website.)

http://www.taisei.co.jp/museum/museum_e.html

National Symposium of Preserving War Remains in Oita

The 7th National Symposium of
Preserving War Remains was held from
August 23 to 24 in Usa City, Oita
Prefecture. There was a base of Japan's
navy and many young men were killed as
special attack corps during the war.
There are many war remains there. 350
people attended the symposium.

Emeritus Professor Keiji Nagahara of

Hitotsubashi University gave a lecture of “War Remains and History Perception”.

He said, “What is war in which young people are ordered to die? What is a nation? We have to ask such questions. We have to use war remains to think of history. People’s history perception will be heightened by knowing historical facts critically.”

The appeal of the symposium says, “Let’s convey the reality of war to the next generation and promote the movement to preserve war remains in order to make the public opinion that won’t allow any war.

(Newsletter No. 153 of Peace Museum Project in Nagano, Matsushiro)

Publication and Videos

Video

* “Koreans Who Worked for Manganese”

By Tanba Manganese Memorial

This is about Koreans who worked for Manganese in Japan. It is in Japanese.

(Tel: 07715-4-0046 Fax: 07715-4-0234)

* “Breaking the History of Silence: The Women’s International War Crimes

Tribunal for the Trial of Japanese Military Sexual Slavery” produced by Video Juku, VAWW-NET Japan
Tel & Fax: 03-3401-8944

* Greenham: the Making of a Monument

Greenhamsculpture@hotmail.com

www.wfloe.fsnet.co.uk

Books

* *Hanaibara* by Osamu Taki (This is a pen name of Mr. Shigeo Nishimori, the director of the Grassroots Housein Kochi.) It is a collection of poems written in Japanese.

* *Toward Nuclear Abolition: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, 1971 - Present* by Lawrence S. Wittner (Stanford University Press 2003)



BUILDING A PEACE MUSEUM ON INDIA – PAKISTAN BORDER

By Syed Sikander Mehdi

Director, Refugee and Migration

Studies Program &

Professor, Department of

International Relations

University of Karachi,

Karachi – 75270 PAKISTAN

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Though peace is a basic human need, not many would acknowledge it so. Worse still, even in the post 9/11 turbulent world of ours, where everybody is insecure everywhere, military solutions continue to be resorted to while dealing with terrorism and conflicts. “At the top of the pyramid which we call civilization” observes John Kenneth Galbraith, “here is the terrible fact of war.” “We cannot” he maintains, “call ourselves a fully civilized people as long as that possibility exists and is, indeed, taken for granted”¹. A major reason for the given state of affairs is lack of awareness regarding the role which peace thinking, peace education, peace research and peace movement may play in promoting peace and harmony at global, regional and local level. “The work of strengthening the systems of peace”, points out Daisaku Ikeda, “must be

supported by matching efforts to foster positive changes in people’s thinking”. He adds: “Dialogue and education for peace can help free our hearts from the impulse toward intolerance and the rejection of others. People need to be made conscious of a very simple reality. We have no choice but to share this planet, this small blue sphere floating in the vast reaches of space, with all of our fellow “Passengers”.²

However, though the peace-teaching and peace-promoting role of peace marches, peace demonstrations, art for peace, peace journalism, peace research and peace poetry are widely recognized, the potentials of peace museums are yet to be fully actualized anywhere.

In contrast, war museums continue to abound in both developed and developing societies. These glorify the past heroic war deeds and promote jingoism and militarism. War is abhorred everywhere and yet war museums proliferate. Peace is wished everywhere, but peace museums are not there. In fact, only a few peace museums exist and even these began to spring up since 1980s. This is so even though the first known proposal to establish a peace museum was made 200 years ago when an eminent physician of Philadelphia, USA, Dr. Benjamin Rush proposed in 1798 the appointment of U.S. Secretary of peace as

well as the organization of exhibits to assist him in his work for advancing the abolition of war³. Further, it is generally agreed that the first peace museum was established way back in 1902 when the Polish–Russian entrepreneur Jean de Bloch founded the International Museum of War and Peace in Lucerne, Switzerland⁴.

Nevertheless, the concept of peace museum is of recent origin. The idea really began to gain attention when a number of peace museums were established in post second world war Japan. Even in a country like United States where the peace movement has been very strong for several decades, the first peace museum was inaugurated as recently as in the year 1981⁵.

Little wonder therefore that contemporary South Asia has little awareness of the peace role of peace museums. In fact, no strong voice has been raised so far for the establishment of such museums in a region where mushrooming war museums glorify war, foster war fighting and promote hate, militarism and nuclearism.

Peace museum are doubtless needed in

every society and region. These are, however, vital for the South Asian region, a region well known for wars, conflicts, political violence, state and group terrorism, widespread prevalence of poverty and gross deprivation and marginalization of the masses. Indeed, such museums are almost indispensable for both India and Pakistan, the two nuclear power states who remain engaged in warmongering, sabre-rattling, conflict-fuelling and hate-promoting. And a place where a peace museum focusing on the evils of war and costs of conflicts needs to be established most urgently is Wagah. Situated between Amritsar in Indian Punjab and Lahore in Pakistani Punjab, Wagah is an army outpost on the border. It has an elaborate complex of buildings, roads and barriers. It is, moreover, the only land border crossing between India and Pakistan which is operational today and “is as fabled as checkpoint charlie was in Berlin and Panmujom armistice between North and South Korea”⁶.

Wagah, moreover, is the ultimate border where hate and hostility is enacted every day in the morning and evening when the Indian and Pakistani flags are raised and lowered near the white line painted across the road boundary. Dating back to August 1947 when India and Pakistan

emerged as independent, sovereign states, this daily ritual is specially an amazing spectacle of stubbornness, aggression and unreason. Popularly known as “Beating the Retreat Ceremony”, the evening ceremony commences at 4:30p.m every day, seven days a week and twelve months a year.

Writing in Houston Chronicle, Claudia Kolker gives a vivid and detailed account of this ritual of hate. The description is worth quoting in full. She says⁷:

“It starts like this. The hazy afternoon turns saffron, and patriotic songs sweep from the checkpoint, calling to their friends like flocking birds. Suddenly, waved in by turbaned soldiers, young women clutching husband’s arms and men clasping bemused toddlers dash toward their seats. By 4:45p.m, 3,000 Indians have massed atop the whitewashed stands. Across the gate, in Wagah, Pakistan, perhaps 300 Pakistani settle into their own stands. Though the area falls equidistance between Lahore, Pakistan, and Amritsar, India, Amritsar is a tourist attraction and train transfer stop, drawing more spectators, residents say. Below them all the road unspool, cleaved at the so-called Zero Line by gates with crescents, stars and metal flowers. Between them, on a path, the

flags of the two nuclear-armed powers face each other down. A hush spills over the spectators. Then inside Pakistan, a guard emits. He looks in many ways identical to his rivals. Pakistani guards wear black uniforms; Indian, olive. But all, broad shouldered and mustached 6 feet 5 inches or taller, and stride about in sashes, cravats, and cockades like rooster combs. The yell from Pakistan electrifies both sides. Spectators let out joyous cheers. In India, five guards march toward the gate. Long leg fold like pocket knives until their knees touch noses. Outsized arms swing in huge parabolas. Then, in crisp precision, all the soldiers brake. On each side of the national gates, one soldier lunges forward, asking his commandant’s leave to approach the flag. By now both crowds are on their feet.

“Bharat mata!” Boys and men, grandmothers and toddlers howl. In front, a sweating youth in an oxford – cloth shirt shakes as he leads the cheers. “Victory for India!” he barks. The smaller Pakistani crowd pounds a dent into the noise. “Pakistan! Allah Akbar!”

One by one, the soldiers swagger toward their flags. Both armies pick their guards from tribes known for Apollonian male beauty. But to a Westerner, the titans’ movements seem incongruous. It looks like parody when one flings a gate ajar and stomps inside, shimmying each massive shoulder. When his colleagues

follow, legs catapulting vertically, it is a feat that to some visitors conjures like Kilgore Rangerettes.

But even to outsiders, the guard's discipline is evident. When the Indians join the Pakistanis in the space between the gates, that discipline grows stunning. As loudspeakers bid the witnesses to stand, the rivals align beneath their flags. They space the last phase of the ritual together.

First, they snap into two facing lines. In each, three Indians brush shoulders with three Pakistanis. Iron-faced, a soldier from each army grasp the rope of his own flag. Crossed, the cords become a mighty X.

Inch by inch, the flags furl down. The timing is precise; after all, anyone, who hurries would unforgivably distort the X. In silent unison, the flags fall into waiting hands. With mirror motion, the flags are folded into squares. Then, sharply, like migrating geese, the guards abruptly wheel, split off, and file back to their territories. The last ones throw slam the gates behind them.

"Hin-du-stan!" India's crowd bellows. The ceremony is done.

As the crowds stream from the bleachers, the few foreign tourists in their midst sit stunned. What does it mean? How can nations hissing war perform this daily pas de deux?"

This daily display of warriorism at

Wagah is not a comic drama. It is a serious business and its message is clear: Wagah is a symbolic battlefield where the ritual authentically communicates each army's power to its rival. It also conveys the message that so far India-Pakistan relations is concerned, the military of the two states has the final word. In addition, the daily ritual exercises a hypnotic effect on the Indian and Pakistani visitors, spectators. It also reinforces militarism and jingoism in them and induces them to accept the hate-building, violence-fuelling and militarism-promoting role of Wagah without raising any question.

But since nations cannot progress in an environment of hate and jingoism, since states cannot acquire strength and power by raising war slogans and by acquiring lethal weapons only, since societies cannot flourish where a culture of violence thrives and since the citizens of both India and Pakistan have a right to life, security, development and peace, Wagah is perhaps the ideal place where a monument of peace, a peace museum, may be established.

Wagah, one may add, is situated in the Punjab and connects both Indian and Pakistani Punjab, where partition violence had spread like wild fire on the eve of Indian partition in 1947. It was the passage through which many caravans of the displaced had moved to

and from India. A peace museum at Wagah depicting partition violence committed by the members of the three involved communities - Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims - can help healing the wounds.

Further, the peace museum at Wagah may project the heroes and heroines of peace of both India and Pakistan who have fought gallantly for human rights, human security, peace and happiness in both the countries. The museum may also become a meeting place for the writers, poets, artists, singers, journalists, women and children engaged in peace studies, peace research and peace movements in these countries and beyond. Many may argue that the idea of a peace museum on India–Pakistan border is an idea whose time has not come as yet. Many of the hawks in the two rivaling countries may say that such a time would never come. Some may like the idea and yet maintain that it is as too idealistic, too dreamy. But if we don't dream dreams, how can our dreams come true?

Footnotes

1. Quoted in .Daisaku Ikeda ,
“Challenge of building peace” , *Japan Times*, September 11, 2003.
- 2..*Ibid*
- 3..Peter Van den Dungen, “Peace Education: Peace Museums” in Lester

- Kurtz and Jennifer Turpin(eds.),*Encyclopedia Violence, Peace ,Conflict* , 3 vols, vol.2, San Diego, California: Academic Press, 1999, p.692
- 4..*Ibid*
 - 5..Terrence Duffy, “Museums of war and peace: Two recent Japanese case studies” <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/psaj/entxt/duffy.html> dated May 03, 2003
 - 6..Paul Holmes, “Tea and tedium at the Wagah border”
<http://cgi.rediff.com/cgi-programs/print/printpag.cgi>. dated April 29, 2003
 - 7.Claudia Kolker , “India-Pakistan ritual puzzling to outsiders”,
<http://www.chron.com/es/cda/printstory.https/world/1199614> dated April 29, 2003



Any Photo of Peace Monument?

There is a plan to create a peace monument in Kochi City where over 400 people were killed in the U.S. air-raids during World War II. Kazuyo Yamane is one of the judges to choose one at the contest of the designs of peace monuments made by citizens. It would be great if any photo of peace monument would be sent to her so that the judges can see what kind of peace monuments exist in the world. It is also hoped that the photos will be introduced in Muse newsletter for the Japanese readers and also in newspapers in Japan.

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Editor's Notes

As usual, news on big and public peace museums was originally written in Japanese by Mr. Masahiko Yamabe, the curator of Kyoto Museum for World Peace at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. Other news was written and edited by Kazuyo Yamane.

I'm sorry that there is not enough space to inform you of various activities more. Perhaps you might have noticed that Japan's victim's side during the war has been exhibited especially at public peace

museum much more than Japan's aggressive side. It seems that it is not easy to make an exhibition on Japan's aggression at public peace museum because of the attacks by the right wingers who want to glorify World War II saying that Japan liberated other Asian nations from European colonialism.

However, you might have also noticed that ordinary citizens have been trying to make an exhibition on Japan's aggression and look for reconciliation with people in other Asian countries.

It is also encouraging that young people in Kochi have been active to protest against the war on Iraq and sending Japan's Self Defense Forces to support the USA.

We welcome your comments on this newsletter. It is really encouraging to receive readers' comments and criticism.

If you prefer Muse by e-mail rather than the printed one, please let me know.

Some prefer keeping Muse in CD-ROM. In this case, there wouldn't be photos and illustration because it is not easy to send them by e-mail.

I hope you will have a Happy New Year!

With best wishes,

Kazuyo Yamane

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